

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:LPETERS

APPROVED BY EA/ITF:JHELBLE

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

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R 050124Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 077662

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 1089 ACTION SECSTATE 4 APR 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 1089

E.O. 11652:

/A

TAGS: PFOR, UM

VS, VN

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON VIETNAM REFUGEES

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (COM-
PRISING BISHOPS OF ALL SEES) ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT
EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 4.TEXT BEING SENT BY TELEGRAM TO PRESI-
DENT FORD, SYG WALDHEIM, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR

SVAL.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WE ARE REASSURED BY THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT
FORD YESTERDAY PLEDGINGTHE FULL COOPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT
TO ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION OF WAR ORPHANS, THE ABANDONED
CHILDREN ANDENDANGERED FAMILIES OF SOUTH VIETNAM. WE PLEDGE
THE UTMOST CONTINUINGEFFORT OF THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES,
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THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CON-

REFERENCE AND,INDEED, OF THE ENTIRE AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

TO MEET THIS URGENT HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TODAY CARE FOR MORE THAN 4,000 ADOPTABLE ORPHANED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE CHILDREN TO BE FLOWN TO THE US WHERE HOMES AND HEARTS ARE OPEN TO THEM AND THAT IT WILL SHOW TO THEM THE SAME GENEROSITY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT AFFORDED REFUGEES FROM CUBA AND HUNGARY.

QUOTE: AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT OF SUFFERING AND FAMILY DISRUPTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WE URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE LEADERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO USE ALL THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO PERMIT THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF

NATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO BRING RELIEF TO THESE FAMILIES AND THE MASSES OF REFUGEES AND TO ALLOW THEM TO REACH PLACES OF SAFETY. END QUOTE.

SCALI

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